



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

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Contact:

Nola Conway

Phone:

(509) 527-7020

Corps invites public to McNary Lock and Dam 50th Anniversary Celebration

Walla Walla, Wash., -- Fifty years ago President Dwight D. Eisenhower traveled to the Pacific Northwest to dedicate McNary Lock and Dam at Umatilla, Ore., and officially “switched” on the power at one of the largest hydroelectric power facilities in the United States.

Congress authorized the construction in 1945. McNary Dam also marked the beginning of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Walla Walla District. It was established in 1948 to build McNary, Lucky Peak in Idaho, and four dams on the lower Snake River.

Today, McNary and seven other Corps dams make inland navigation to Lewiston, Idaho, possible. The dam also provides irrigation, recreation, fish and wildlife, and power generation benefits.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers serves the public as the largest operator of hydroelectric power plants in the United States and one of the largest in the world. Corps hydropower plants provide 100 billion kilowatt-hours annually, enough power to serve more than 10 million households.

On Sept. 23, the Corps will hold a 50th Anniversary Celebration at McNary Dam’s Spillway Park. The ceremony will be held 10 – 11:30 a.m. and is open to the public. Seating will be provided. The keynote speaker will be Oregon State Senator David Nelson, and includes remarks from Bonneville Power Administration and Lt. Col. Randy Glaeser, Walla Walla District commander. The I Corps Army Band from Fort Lewis, Wash., will provide music for the ceremony. Tours of the dam will be available from 1 - 4 p.m.

McNary’s employee association is sponsoring a no-host social at 5:30 p.m. at the Eagles Lodge, 160 NW 2nd Street in Hermiston, Ore. The social provides an opportunity for current and past employees to get together. The evening will include a video and live music, starting at 9 p.m.

Tickets cost \$20 per person. More information is available on the Walla Walla District Web site at www.nww.usace.army.mil. Tickets to the social can be purchased by calling (541) 922-2252 or (541) 922-2219.

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